

## REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 15-18 are in this application and presented for consideration. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended Claim 2 and Claim 6.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 15-18 have been objected to because the "set point" is not defined since it is unclear what signal or data is related to the set point so as to compare with the common measured value. Applicant has amended Claim 1 and Claim 6 to cure the minor informality. Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful review of the claims. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner favorably consider the claims as now presented.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 15-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Niedermaier reference (US 5,123,316) in view of the Hesselman reference (US 5,876,784).

The present invention provides a process for determining the cutting positions of a plurality of web strands. During the process, the web strands are brought together into a bounded strand in a rotary printing press and are cross-cut. The process comprises the steps of bringing together the web strands into a bounded strand and recording a common measured value for the cutting position of the web strands in the bounded strand. The process further comprises recording, for each of the web strands, an individual strand measured value for the cutting positions of the web strands before bringing the strands together. The recorded common measured value is then used in a common control device to determine the cutting positions of the web strands in the bounded strand. A common adjusting signal for the bounded

strand in the common control device is formed by comparing the common measured value with a set point value. For each web strand, an individual adjusting signal is formed, and the common adjusting signal and the respective individual strand measured value are used to form respective individual adjusting signals. This process advantageously increases the accuracy of the cutting position and reduces material waste. The present invention provides the advantage of having one sensor at a point of the path of the web, which simplifies the design. This advantageously allows for the maintenance of the sensors to be simple and easy. The prior art fails to teach such features or advantages.

The Niedermaier reference discloses a main cutting register device 2. The main cutting register device 2 consists of two full-width paper guide rollers 3, 4 that are supported in side frames and a horizontally or vertically electromotively shiftable register roller 6. As it leaves the main cutting register device 2, the paper web 1 reaches a slitting unit 8 via regulated pull rollers 7. The paper web 1 is longitudinally slit up into eight part paper webs 9.1-9.8. The partial webs 9.1-9.8 run together through a second pull device 11 before they are singly guided through a folder super-structure 14 via air-cushioned turnbars 12.1-12.8 and then past web cutting register devices 13.1-13.8 and idler rollers 15. As the single partial web strips 9.1-9.8 pass over the idler rollers 15 they are combined into one or two strips 16, 17. These two strips 16, 17 run into a strip-cutting register device 18. The strip-cutting register device 18 is arranged after the points of consolidation 10.1, 10.2 where the part paper webs 9.1-9.8 finish forming the strips 16, 17 and in front of a strip cross-cutting device 19. Cutting-marks reading heads 59, 60 are paced adjacent each stack of strips 16, 17 after the points of consolidation

10.1, 10.2 of the strips 16, 17 and before the strip cutting register device 18. Each reading head 59, 60 cooperates with an electronic controlling and adjusting device 62, which controls the electromotors 53 of the strip-cutting register device 18 in accordance with the strip-cutting register deviation. The reading heads 59, 60 sense the position of the cutting register marks on the strips 16, 17 and send this information to the adjusting device 62. The actual positions of the cutting register marks are compared to a set value. Any deviation of the actual value from the set value causes a signal to be sent to the motor 53 to maintain the strips 16, 17 in accurate register with the strip cross-cutting device 19. A second group of cutting mark reading heads 64.1-64.8 are positioned adjacent the individual strips 9.1-9.8. The cutting marks reading heads 64.1-64.8 are electrically connected to a part paper web controlling and adjusting device 65.

Hesselmann discloses a transverse gluing mechanism 1 for a high-speed register mark-related paper 2. The web 2 has register mark-related reference marks 14. The treating device 1 has one or more rotating cylinders 3. The transverse gluing mechanism 1 has an independent synchronous drive 6, which rotates the cylinder 3 in adaptation to the high-speed paper web 2. The synchronous drive 6 comprises a drive motor 7 and a control circuit 8. The control 8 contains a regulating unit 9. To synchronize the movements of the web 2 and the cylinder 3, the velocity of the web and the register mark reference are scanned by a calibrated set point transducer 12a, 12b. One or more actual value transducers 10, 11 are connected to the control circuit 8 or the regulating unit 9. The actual value transducers 10, 11 are calibrated for the cylinder 3 or the drive motor 7. The synchronism between the movement of the web 2 and the

rotation of the cylinder 3 is established in the control circuit 8 and the drive motor 7 is energized correspondingly. The regulating unit 9 performs a comparison of the set points picked off from the movement of the web 2 and the actual values of the movement of the cylinder 3 and the motor 8.

Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be reconsidered in view of the prior art as a whole failing to suggest the combination of features claimed. It may be said that certain features of the invention are shown individually not coupled with other features. However, the references as a whole fail to provide any teaching or motivation to combine the features as claimed. Both Niedermaier et al. and Hesselmann fail to teach or suggest the combination of forming a common adjusting signal for the bounded strand in the common control device by comparing the common measured value with a set point value and forming an individual adjusting signal for each web strand. Niedermaier et al. and Hesselmann further fail to disclose that the common adjusting signal and the respective individual strand measured value are used to form the respective individual adjusting signal. This combination is important to Applicant's invention and there is no teaching of this whatsoever. In fact, Niedermaier et al. discloses two separate control circuits 62, 65 that cannot exchange signals. Hesselmann merely discloses one control circuit 8. Hesselmann provides no incentive for combining the two separate control circuits in Niedermaier et al. so that the control circuits 62, 65 can exchange signals. Both Hesselmann and Niedermaier et al. fail to suggest to a person skilled in the art to connect the control circuits 62, 65 to conduct a process as recited in Claim 1 and Claim 6. Both Niedermaier et al. and Hesselmann fail to disclose that the common adjusting signal is used

together with an individual strand measured value to form an individual adjusting signal. As such, the prior art does not present direction, incentive or motivation to present the combination of features claimed.

The prior art as a whole fails to direct the person of ordinary skill in the art toward the features of the invention. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner favorably consider the claims as now presented.

Further and favorable consideration on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted  
for Applicant,



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Attached: Petition for Three Month Extension of Time

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SHOULD ANY OTHER FEE BE REQUIRED, THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE IS HEREBY REQUESTED TO CHARGE SUCH FEE TO OUR DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 13-0410.